Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 (Currently Amended) A method for allowing a user to define ~~and use~~ custom metadata schemas, the method comprising the steps of:

    (a)   providing a network accessible server with a metadata library comprising a plurality of metadata ~~vocabularies~~ schemas;

    (b)   ~~displaying from the server~~ providing form information to a client computer for presenting a form-driven user interface ~~on a client computer~~ that allows the user to specify, without using syntax required by an underlying specification language, a plurality of properties, including constraints supported by the underlying specification language, to thereby ~~create~~ define a custom metadata ~~vocabulary~~ schema; and

    (c)   storing the custom metadata ~~vocabulary~~ schema in the metadata library.

2 (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further including the step of:

    (d)   allowing the user to search the metadata library to select at least one of the metadata ~~vocabularies~~ schemas to apply to an electronic resource.

3 (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein step (a) further includes the step of:

    (i)   providing the server with management capabilities that allows a

user to ~~create~~ define metadata ~~vocabularies~~ schemas, add references

to the library to metadata ~~vocabularies~~ schemas existing external to

the metadata library, and set user permissions for the metadata

~~vocabularies~~ schemas in the library.

4   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3 wherein step (a) (i) further includes the

step of: adding references to external metadata ~~vocabularies~~ schemas by providing a

universal resource indicator and name of the metadata ~~vocabulary~~ schema.

5   (Cancelled)

6   (Cancelled)

7   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein step (b) further includes the

step of:

   (i)   allowing the user to ~~create~~ define the custom metadata ~~vocabulary~~

       schema ~~by reusing~~ from an existing metadata ~~vocabulary~~ schema.

8   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7 wherein step (b)(i) further includes the

step of:

   (1) allowing the user to search for the existing metadata ~~vocabulary~~ schema

       by entering search criteria that include ~~vocabulary~~ schema names and

       property names;

   (2) displaying metadata ~~vocabularies~~ schemas matching the search criteria;

       and

   (3) allowing the user to select properties from the displayed metadata

~~vocabularies~~ schemas to add to the custom metadata ~~vocabulary~~ schema.

9 (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further including the step of:

allowing the user to supply a software validator to enforce constraints beyond those

supported by an underlying specification language, wherein the software validator is

called when metadata associated with the ~~vocabulary~~ schema is created or changed,

but after constraints enforced by the specification language have been verified.

10 (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein step (d) further includes the step of:

allowing the user to upload the resource to the server.

11 (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2 wherein step (d) further includes the

step of: allowing the user to specify which metadata ~~vocabularies~~ schemas are required

to be associated with particular resource types.

12 (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11 wherein step (d) further includes the

step of:

    (i)   associating user account information with the resource type and

           required metadata ~~vocabulary~~ schema information; and

    (ii)   automatically applying required metadata ~~vocabularies~~ schemas

           specified for the type of electronic resource when the server receives

           the resource by checking the user's account and retrieving the required

           metadata ~~vocabularies~~ schemas specified for the resource type.

13 (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10 wherein step (a) further includes the

step of: including in the metadata ~~vocabularies~~ library a universal schema, shared

schemas, and private schemas.

14 (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein step (a) further includes the step of:

requiring all images in the network to include metadata that is specified by the universal

schema.

15 (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2 further including the steps of allowing

the user to assign a metadata instance to the resource by:

retrieving required metadata ~~vocabularies~~ schemas specified for a resource type

of the resource;

merging the retrieved metadata ~~vocabularies~~ schemas and removing duplicate

properties;

generating and displaying forms that allow the user to enter data values for the

properties;

validating the data values based on ~~vocabulary~~ schema constraints; and

associating the data values with the resource and saving.

16 (Currently amended) A computer-readable medium containing program instructions

for allowing a user to define ~~and use~~ custom metadata schemas, the instructions for:

    (a)   providing a network accessible server with a metadata library comprising a

           plurality of metadata ~~vocabularies~~ schemas;

    (b)   ~~displaying from the server~~ providing form information to a client computer

           for presenting a form-driven user interface ~~on a client computer~~ that allows

           the user to specify, without using syntax required by an underlying

specification language, a plurality of properties, including constraints

supported by the underlying specification language, to thereby ~~create~~

define a custom metadata ~~vocabulary~~ schema; and

(c)   storing the custom metadata ~~vocabulary~~ schema in the metadata library.

17 (Currently Amended) The ~~method~~ computer-readable medium of claim 16 further

including the step of:

(d) allowing the user to search the metadata library to select at least one of the

metadata ~~vocabularies~~ schemas to apply to an electronic resource.

18 (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 16 wherein

instruction (a) further includes the instruction of:

(i)   providing the server with management capabilities that allows a

user to ~~create~~ define metadata ~~vocabularies~~ schemas, add references

to the library to metadata ~~vocabularies~~ schemas existing external to

the ~~vocabulary~~ metadata library, and set user permissions for the

metadata ~~vocabularies~~ schemas in the library.

19 (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 18 wherein

instruction (a) (i) further includes the instruction of: adding references to external

metadata ~~vocabularies~~ schemas by providing a universal resource indicator and name

of the metadata ~~vocabulary~~ schema.

20 (Cancelled)

21 (Cancelled)

22 (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 16 wherein

instruction (b) further includes the instruction of:

(i)   allowing the user to ~~create~~ define the custom metadata ~~vocabulary~~

schema ~~by reusing~~ from an existing metadata ~~vocabulary~~ schema.

23 (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 22 wherein

instruction (b)(i) further includes the instruction of:

(1) allowing the user to search for the existing metadata ~~vocabulary~~ schema

by entering search criteria that include ~~vocabulary~~ schema names and

property names;

(2) displaying metadata ~~vocabularies~~ schemas matching the search criteria;

and

(3) allowing the user to select properties from the displayed metadata

~~vocabularies~~ schemas to add to the custom metadata ~~vocabulary~~ schema.

24 (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 17 further including

the instruction of:

allowing the user to supply a software validator to enforce constraints beyond those

supported by an underlying specification language, wherein the software validator is

called when metadata associated with the ~~vocabulary~~ schema is created or changed,

but after constraints enforced by the specification language have been verified.

25 (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 17 wherein instruction (d) further

includes the instruction of: allowing the user to upload the resource to the server.

26 (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 17 wherein

instruction (d) further includes the instruction of: allowing the user to specify which

metadata ~~vocabularies~~ schemas are required to be associated with particular resource

types.

27 (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 26 wherein

instruction (d) further includes the instruction of:

> (i)   associating user account information with the resource type and
>
> required metadata ~~vocabulary~~ schema information; and
>
> (ii)   automatically applying required metadata ~~vocabularies~~ schemas
>
> specified for the type of electronic resource when the server receives
>
> the resource by checking the user's account and retrieving the required
>
> metadata ~~vocabularies~~ schemas specified for the resource type.

28 (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 27 wherein

instruction (a) further includes the instruction of: including in the ~~vocabulary~~ metadata

library a universal schema, shared schemas, and private schemas.

29 (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 28 wherein instruction (a) further

includes the instruction of: requiring all images in the network to include metadata that is

specified by the universal schema.

30 (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 17 further including

the instructions of allowing the user to assign a metadata instance to the resource by:

retrieving required metadata ~~vocabularies~~ <u>schemas</u> specified for a resource type

of the resource;

merging the retrieved metadata ~~vocabularies~~ <u>schemas</u> and removing duplicate

properties;

generating and displaying forms that allow the user to enter data values for the

properties;

validating the data values based on ~~vocabulary~~ <u>schema</u> constraints; and

associating the data values with the resource and saving.

31 (Currently Amended) A metadata management system, comprising:

a plurality of client computers, wherein each client computer stores respective

resources; and

a server in communication with the client computers over a network, the server

including<u>:</u>

a metadata ~~vocabulary~~ library containing a plurality of metadata ~~vocabularies~~

<u>schemas</u>, each metadata ~~vocabulary~~ <u>schema</u> comprising a plurality of properties and

constraints on values the properties may have, and

a Web application for <u>providing form information to a client computer for</u>

<u>presenting a form-driven user interface that allows the user to specify, without using</u>

<u>syntax required by an underlying specification language, a plurality of properties,</u>

<u>including constraints supported by the underlying specification language, to thereby</u>

<u>define a custom metadata schema</u> ~~displaying browser-based forms on the client~~

~~computers that allow users of the client computers to define custom metadata~~

~~vocabularies~~ for storage in the metadata ~~vocabulary~~ library. ~~by entering property names.~~

32 (Currently Amended) The system of claim 31 wherein the Web application further

functions to allow the user to search the metadata library to select at least one of the

metadata ~~vocabularies~~ schemas to apply to the resources, such a wherein the user

uploads one of the resources to the server, the selected metadata ~~vocabularies~~

schemas are applied to the resource.

33 (Currently Amended) The system of claim 31 wherein the server includes

management capabilities that allows a user to ~~create~~ define metadata ~~vocabularies~~

schemas, add references to the library to metadata ~~vocabularies~~ schemas existing

external to the metadata library, and set user permissions for the metadata ~~vocabularies~~

schemas in the library.

34 (Currently Amended) The system of claim 33 wherein the user adds references to

external metadata ~~vocabularies~~ schemas by providing a universal resource indicator

and name of the metadata ~~vocabulary~~ schema.

35 (Cancelled)

36 (Currently Amended) The system of claim 31 wherein Web application allows the

user to ~~create~~ define the custom metadata ~~vocabulary~~ schema ~~by reusing~~ from an

existing metadata ~~vocabulary~~ schema.

37 (Currently Amended) The system of claim 36 wherein the Web application allows the

user to define the custom metadata schema from an existing metadata ~~vocabulary~~

Application No. 10/034,277   Attorney Docket No. 2358P/P215
Paper filed 5/9/2006   Page 11 of 22
Reply to Office Action mailed 1/12/2006

schema is reused by:

allowing the user to search for the existing metadata ~~vocabulary~~ schema by

entering search criteria that include ~~vocabulary~~ schema names and property names,

displaying metadata ~~vocabularies~~ schemas matching the search criteria, and

allowing the user to select properties from the displayed metadata ~~vocabularies~~

schemas to add to the custom metadata ~~vocabulary~~ schema.

38 (Currently Amended) The system of claim 32 further including a software validator

running on client appears to enforce constraints beyond those supported by an

underlying specification language, wherein the software validator is called when

metadata associated with the ~~vocabulary~~ schema is created or changed, but after

constraints enforced by the specification language have been verified.

39 (Currently Amended) The system of claim 32 wherein the user is allowed to specify

which metadata ~~vocabularies~~ schemas are required to be associated with particular

resource types.

40 (Currently Amended) The system of claim 39 wherein the Web application

associates user account information with the resource type and required metadata

~~vocabulary~~ schema information, and to the required metadata ~~vocabularies~~ schemas

specified for the type of electronic resource are automatically applied when the server

receives the resource by checking the user's account and retrieving the required

metadata ~~vocabularies~~ schemas specified for the resource type.

41 (Currently Amended) The system of claim 40 wherein the metadata ~~vocabulary~~

library includes a universal schema, shared schemas, and private schemas.

42 (Original) The system of claim 41 wherein requiring all resources stored on the

server are required to include metadata that is specified by the universal schema.

43 (Currently Amended) The system of claim 32 wherein the user is allowed to assign a

metadata instance to the resource by:

retrieving required metadata ~~vocabularies~~ schemas specified for a resource type

of the resource;

merging the retrieved metadata ~~vocabularies~~ schemas and removing duplicate

properties;

generating and displaying forms that allow the user to enter data values for the

properties;

validating the data values based on ~~vocabulary~~ schema constraints; and

associating the validated data values with the resource and saving.